

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: From Romanticism to Realism: The Literature of the Long Nineteenth Century
Status: Definitive
Code: **5045ENGLIS** (119281)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2015

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
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Academic Level: FHEQ5 **Credit Value:** 24.00 **Total Delivered Hours:** 101.00
Total Learning Hours: 240 **Private Study:** 139

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	25.000
Online	24.000
Seminar	50.000
Tutorial	2.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	ESSAY	1500 Word Essay	30.0	
Portfolio	PORTFOLIO	Portfolio of seminar and online participation and contribution, including critical reading exercise	30.0	
Essay	ESSAY	3000 word essay	40.0	

Aims

1. To develop students' understanding of the major genres of nineteenth-century poetry and fiction - romanticism, the gothic, realism and melodrama - and to consider their development, characteristics, overlaps and adaptations.

2. To explore the connections between politics and culture in Britain during periods of social instability and transformation.

3. To introduce students to some of the major critical and historical debates about the relationship between literature and society in the nineteenth century.

4. To enhance skills and confidence in teamwork, facilitating discussion and oral communication through group-led seminar workshops.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Identify and critically appraise the characteristics, conventions and complexities nineteenth-century cultural forms through close textual analysis.
- 2 Prepare and lead a critical reading exercise by working collaboratively to select appropriate extracts and questions, and by facilitating class discussion.
- 3 Critically engage with some of the major critical and historical debates about the relationship between literature and society in the nineteenth century and write thoughtfully on how they can be related to texts examined on the module.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

1500 WORD ESSAY	1
PORTFOLIO	2
3000 WORD ESSAY	3

Outline Syllabus

Introduction: Revolution or Reform? Realism and Romanticism?

Part 1: Romanticism and Reaction

Selection of Prose and Poetry (2 weeks)

Jane Austen, Sense and Sensibility (1811): Counter Revolution, Romanticism and Parody; The Woman Question, Conduct Literature and Domestic Fiction (2 weeks)

Slavery and abolition: selection of writings (1 week)

Part 2: Writing the Real: Society and the Individual

Charlotte Bronte, Jane Eyre (1847): Realism and Romanticism; Interiority and the 'Other' (2 weeks)

Poetry in the Hungry Forties: Protest, Class and Sentiment (1 week)

Elizabeth Gaskell, Mary Barton (1848): Social Protest and the Industrial Novel - Realism, Melodrama and Sympathy (2 weeks)

Part 3: Evolution and Psychological Realism

Evolution, the Individual and Society:

Selection of Writings by Darwin, Mill and Smiles (1 week)

George Eliot, Middlemarch (1871/74), Realism, Darwinism, the Woman Question (3 weeks)

Part 4: Flights of Fantasy? Fleeing Realism? New Realities?

Robert Louis Stevenson, 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' (1886): The Return of the Gothic (1 week)

Imperial Refrains: Kipling, poetry and music hall (1 week)

Oscar Wilde, Importance of Being Earnest (1895): Decadence and Parody (1 week)

The New Woman and the Short Story (1 week)

Thomas Hardy, Jude the Obscure (1895): The End of Victorianism? The End of Realism? (2 weeks)

Learning Activities

Lectures

Seminar Workshops

Student-led Critical Reading Exercises and Discussion

Blackboard/Online tasks

Notes

This module explores how literature and culture participated in the profound social and political transformations of the nineteenth century. It examines competing visions of imagination, feeling, manners, humanity, democracy and order. This was a period when art, literature and culture became deeply political. Writers increasingly saw themselves as social commentators and advocates as well as artists and, in seeking to represent and change their society, they pioneered new cultural forms, including the industrial novel and the literature of protest. As they strove to document the social landscape, many were equally keen to discover the inner self and the landscape of interiority. In exploring these terrains, writers deployed both romanticism and realism and the module investigates the complex relationships between these two literary movements in a wide range of cultural forms.